

COUNTY NEWS



PUBLISHED FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

December 2002

Tree of Hope to Benefit County Foster Youth

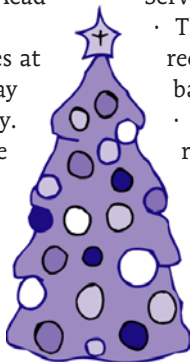
Purchase an ornament to decorate the Holiday Tree of Hope in the County Administration Center lobby and your donation will support the San Pasqual Academy.

For three years, Facilities Services at the CAC has sponsored the holiday tree fundraiser in the CAC lobby. This year, staff is hoping to raise more \$1,000 for the academy, which was built by the County and other partners to help foster youth obtain the education and life skills needed to lead healthy, productive lives.

Ornaments, donated by Clerk of the Board employees, are available for \$3 and can be personalized with the sponsor's name or a dedication to a loved

one. Frank Ortega, who organizes the Tree of Hope program each year, has donated additional "incentives" to help Facilities Services reach its goal:

- The first 10 people to donate \$5 will receive a Swiss Classic Lindt chocolate bar.
- The first 10 people to donate \$7 will receive fruit bonbons in a decorative collector's tin.
- The first 10 people to donate \$10 will receive a can of orange pecan gourmet hot cocoa.



The tree is expected to be on display by the second week of December and will remain in the lobby through the holidays. Stop by the information booth at the CAC to purchase an ornament or make a donation.

County Office Hosts Annual Caroling Party for Area Kids

The "Christmas Spirit" is alive and well at the 4588 Market Street (Southeast) office of the Health and Human Services Agency. The "Spirit" started as a small project for staffers to get more involved in the community they served, and has since grown to a much-anticipated annual event.

In 1998, former HHSA staff member Chad Baldwin stopped by the neighborhood school, Chollas View Elementary, to see if there was anything his office could do to make the holidays a little brighter for the children in the area. When he was told "anything would be appreciated," he approached the district manager and the idea of the Annual Caroling Party was born.

What started with about 50 children has mushroomed to 150. Children, their parents and teachers, along with HHSA staffers take part in a five-block carolling route from Chollas View Elementary School to the HHSA office. Once the group reaches the office, it's refreshments for all, then a

return trip to school, where a meal is provided thanks to a nearby Burger King. The children also receive a small gift from "Santa," who even stopped by to hand the presents out himself last year.

In addition to the caroling party, the Southeast office has begun adopting families in need from the school. Last year five families were adopted based on school referrals, and were given gifts and food for the holidays.

Even after the project's founder transferred to another office his coworkers continued the tradition. Sadly, Baldwin passed away last November, but the workers at the Southeast office like to think his memory lives on with the work done through this neighborhood event.



Other Holiday Drives

Each year when the Tax Tent goes up, Treasurer/Tax-Collector employees are doing more than offering a convenient setting for accepting property tax payments. Employees often do fundraisers and this year they decided to sell popcorn and poinsettia plants to raise money for the San Pasqual Academy. The Tax Tent is open until Dec. 10 and is located on the lawn outside the south entrance to the CAC.

The Sheriff's department is joining with other law enforcement agencies for the 12th annual Teddy Bear drive to benefit Children's Hospital. The agencies are aiming to collect 10,000 teddy bears and County employees can help. New,

unwrapped teddy Bears can be brought to any Sheriff's station up until Dec. 13. On Dec. 16, law enforcement will deliver the bears via a three-mile caravan of patrol cars and motorcycles. For

more information contact Sgt. Julie Sutton at (858) 974-2324.

Many of the County Library branches are hosting toy and food drive barrels for the holiday season, including Bonita, Borrego, Cardiff, Casa de Oro, Crest, Del Mar, El Cajon, Fletcher Hills, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, Pine Valley, Ramona, San Marcos, Santee, and Vista.



For more stories about holiday "good works," see page 3 as well as the "Extra" section of the online version of this newsletter!

NewsBriefs

Disney on Ice

The characters of "Toy Story 2" are taking to the ice, and County employees are invited to enjoy the show for a discount. Thanks to the County's DIBBS (Do It Better By Suggestion) program, employees have their choice of reduced tickets to three showings Jan. 30 through Feb. 1. For more information, look for a DIBBS flier posted in your work area, contact your department's DIBBS coordinator, or call the DIBBS office at (619) 578-5781.

San Pasqual Academy Story Airls

A documentary about the first year of the San Pasqual Academy, a live-in high school for foster teens, is now airing on the County Television Network. The 30-minute program offers a rare glimpse at life at San Pasqual, the first school of its kind in the nation. Throughout the school's inaugural year, CTN crews taped various aspects of life at San Pasqual, from the classroom to the football field, and from family meals to the prom.

Air dates for the San Pasqual documentary, along with CTN's complete program schedule, can be found at www.ctn.org.

Child Support Outreach

Beginning in January, custodial parents who are seeking child support services can attend orientation sessions in the North County. The Department of Child Support Services will offer these support meetings at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of the month, starting Jan. 7., at the Vista Library Community Room (700 Eucalyptus Avenue). Parents can meet with DCSS staff to identify potential problems regarding their case, open a case, enforce an order and/or facilitate the overall processing of their case. The orientations will be held at For more information, contact John Rosenthal at (619) 578-6660 or jrosen@sddcss.org.

The County Bites Back

In the next few weeks the County will release its strategic response plan for the West Nile Virus. Although at this time there have been no reported cases of the West Nile Virus in San Diego, experts predict it's a matter of "when," not "if." The goal of the plan is to proactively educate both residents and County employees about the illness, how to stay safe and how to minimize mosquito breeding areas.

For more information, visit the West Nile Virus Web site at www.sdfightthebite.com.



In West's Words

Santa, All I Want for Christmas is...

Santa, all I want for Christmas is... A stress-free holiday season for all County employees... Management lessons for the people running our state... Lower cost health insurance... An end to frivolous lawsuits which take our time and cost taxpayers lots and lots of money... Support for our President, our Congress and all others involved in leading our nation through these difficult times... A few gray hairs for Sheriff Bill Kolender (he looks entirely too good for a guy his age)... Safety and security in our homes and places of work...

Santa, all I want for Christmas is... For State lawmakers to keep their hands off our money and jobs... for Ross and Rachel to get married and live happily ever after... Good times for all those retiring County employees who have served us so well... An end to smoking (sorry smokers, I care about you!)... Media coverage of government that reflects not just our mistakes, but our many successes...

Santa, all I want for Christmas is... A fourth consecutive NBA championship for the Los Angeles Lakers... A new Treasurer/Tax Collector (Santa already came through on that one)... Rain, rain and more rain... To avoid employee layoffs next year... Better cooperation between local governments... Relief from the Mexican Fruit Fly, the Bark Beetle, West Nile Virus and all other manner of pestilence threatening our community... To sing a duet with Mary Grillo (in perfect harmony of course!)...

Santa, all I want for Christmas is... Never to hear the phrase "Good enough for government work" again... To stop Tim Allen from making "Santa Claus 3" (please Tim, two is plenty!)... New touch screen voting machines that work perfectly the first time... To live each day by our County motto; *the noblest motive is the public good*... More foster parents... Fewer homeless families... Proper respect for those who protect and defend us...

Santa, all I want for Christmas is... A fifteen minute commute time from East County to downtown (ha ha)... For my wife and three daughters to just once settle in for a pleasant evening of Monday night football with dear ol' dad (what better way to get the whole family together)... To continue to provide quality service to the public at a responsible cost in spite of the budget mess in Sacramento... To shine the light on those unsung heroes in County government who serve those who need us most ...

Santa, all I want for Christmas is... a winning football team at San Diego State... An affordable home for all our children who would like to stay and live here... good luck for the newly created organization charged with finding us a new airport (they'll need it!)... clean air, clean water, pure hearts and minds... a motorized scooter... Dow 10,000... Journey mercy for all County employees traveling this holiday season...

Santa, all I want for Christmas is... Stockings filled with good will, glad tidings and great joy for each and every County employee. May the public we serve gain a real appreciation for the exceptional work you do.

Health and happiness to all of you and yours,

West

Walt Ekard
Chief Administrative Officer

The Supervisor's View

Closing the Curtain on 2002



By Chairman Ron Roberts

Part of an ongoing series by the Board of Supervisors.

As the curtain begins to close on 2002, I want to take a moment to reflect on what was undeniably a very successful year, and to thank you for all your good work.

As Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, it has been my privilege to lead such a dynamic County team—a team of dedicated professionals who seek to make a difference every day.

As for 2002, we certainly couldn't have asked for a better start to the new year. In January, we received word from Washington D.C.-based *Governing* magazine that following a study of the nation's 40 largest counties, the publication found the County of San Diego to be one of the best-run in America. In fact, only two counties fared better.

I want to express my appreciation to each and every one of you, especially to those who have been through some rather long, dark days here—particularly during the early to mid-90s—and can now take your rightful place in the sun.

This also was the year the Board of Supervisors approved a much-enhanced retirement plan for our employees. You can now be assured you have one of the most competitive pension packages around.

This year, we also brought to San Diego this region's first firefighting helicopter, which during its 90-day trial run, helped douse more than a dozen fires across the county. In addition, we made great strides to address the changes and challenges in healthcare, particularly with regard to the nursing shortage and the growing problem of childhood obesity. We also continued our work designing what will someday be one of the most beautiful waterfront parks in the nation, right here surrounding our historic County building.

These were but a few of the accomplishments of 2002. All in all, it was quite a productive year.

As I turn the reigns over to the incoming chairman, Supervisor Greg Cox, I want to thank you for your commitment to public service, and wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season.

[Ver•ba•tim]

Letters from satisfied customers served by County employees.

Marco DeLaToba (Public Administrator, HHSA) was commended for helping a family following a loved one's death.

"He is sympathetic, understanding, and has an outstanding ability to explain the situation and our options to us."

Marcel Mendoza (HHSA, Family Resource Center) was recognized for helping a family through a tough time.

"Your professionalism in the way you handled his case was very much appreciated."

Jesse Marquez, Ezequiel Maldonado, Eddie Del Toro, Pat Nolan and Les Bracy (Public Works) were commended for their quick action to a request from a customer.

"If these guys are any indication of the kind of people you have working for you, you should be beaming with pride."

Della Cohen (Treasure/Tax Collector) was praised for her kind and prompt response to a Fallbrook couple.

"With all the problems that my wife and I have been experiencing since the fire you have been the first ray of sunshine that has come along to help us when help was needed."

Aileen Smith (HHSA, Children's Services) received words of appreciation for her hard work on behalf of a couple's grandson.

"In my opinion she is the finest social worker on your staff. This is because she truly cares about the child involved, and is willing to work the long, hard hours to ensure the child's best welfare is secured."

Damian Lowe (Public Defender) and law student Christian Ham were praised by parents for their professional conduct in defending their son.

"Regardless of the outcome, my wife and I were extremely satisfied with the quality of the defense of our son. It is good to know that there are quality public defenders that the less fortunate may rely on."

Irma Pimentel (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was recognized by a customer for her graciousness in answering questions for a new property owner.

"I am very thankful I found a great person in your office who was most helpful with my problems."

(Check out the Intranet version of County News for more "Verbatim.")

County 'Family' Shares Good Fortune with Others

The folks in the Health and Human Services Agency's Alcohol and Drug Services get into the holiday spirit each year by joining together to adopt a family for Christmas.

For 10 out of the past 11 years, staff has voluntarily donated food, money and gifts to support a family in need.

Janis Harris Bellinger, who coordinates the project, said it reinforces the meaning of Christmas for a lot of them.

This year, the group has chosen a family of five. The group will rally together—along with family, friends, past co-workers and some times mere acquaintances—to purchase everything on the family's list, and more.



While each year is different, depending upon the family and their needs, the one thing that remains consist is that the group always seems to exceed the wish list. One year a staff member donated a VCR she had won, another year a co-worker gave up his like-new stereo. Bellinger has even had the pharmacy aide at her local drugstore contribute items once she found out about the group's effort.

Bellinger credits the holiday tradition's success to the generous nature of those who participate, as well as the support of ADS leader, Al Medina. It's a time consuming process to coordinate, but the outcome is all worth it, Bellinger said: "It makes Christmas for me."

Read about more good deeds done by County workers in the "County News Extra" section of the online version of this newsletter!

NewsMakers NewsMakers

Debra Zanders-Willis, Health & Human Services Agency, was promoted to assistant deputy director of the San Pasqual Academy project. Zanders-Willis has 13 years experience as a social worker, supervisor and manager in Children's Services. She was most recently the executive assistant for the general manager of the North Central Region. Her duties will include overseeing contracts related to the academy and the continuing campus construction, and ensuring that foster youth are assessed and referred for admission.

Joan Zinser, director of the Strategy and Planning division of the Health and Human Services Agency, has been named to the NACo Human Services and Education Steering Committee. This committee annually reviews and makes recommendations on issues and legislation related to services to children and families. NACo, the National Association of Counties, acts as a liaison with other levels of government, works to improve public understanding of counties, serves as a national advocate for counties and provides

them with resources to help them find innovative methods to meet the challenges they face.

Greg Kaufman, Probation, was recently honored by the STAR/PAL program as one of its five Volunteers of the Year. The award was presented at the organization's annual volunteer recognition day, just prior to the kickoff at the Nov. 3 Chargers football game. Kaufman was recognized for his contributions to the youth of San Diego.

Larry Newcomb, Environmental Health, received the "Technical of the Year" award from the California Ground Water Association, a statewide group made up of drilling and pump contractors, as well as technical members. Newcomb, an environmental health specialist with the Small Water System program, was nominated for this award for his consistent support of the CGA mission to protect groundwater.

Ana Espana, Public Defender, was appointed by the Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court to be a member of the Judicial Council, Juvenile and Family Law Advisory Committee. Espana is the Supervising Attorney for the PD's Dependency Division.

County News is published for the 17,000 employees of the County of San Diego.

Board of Supervisors

Greg Cox, District 1
Dianne Jacob, District 2
Pam Slater, District 3
Ron Roberts, District 4
Bill Horn, District 5

Chief Administrative Officer

Walter F. Ekard

This information is available upon request in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.



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CPR SKILLS HELP COUNTY WORKER SAVE A LIFE

When Theresa Duncan took a CPR class this past September, she just thought it would be a good idea to freshen up on the skills she had learned years ago. She'd taken CPR before, but had never had to use it.

Little did she know that not only was that going to change – but it was going to change pretty quick.

Duncan is an Intermediate Clerk Typist with County Mental Health division of the Health and Human Services Agency. She had been with the County only a few months when she asked to attend the training offered by HHSA.

Just a couple weeks later, Duncan was on her way to a church function when she noticed a car ahead of her driving erratically. The driver pulled over to the side of the road, staggered out and fell. Duncan immediately pulled over, called 911, and moved the man to safety.

"He wasn't breathing, and his face looked like he had been in pain," Duncan said. After checking his vital signs, Duncan started CPR. Soon, another woman pulled over and started alternating CPR with Duncan.

The two continued working until the paramedics arrived.

"It really felt like I knew what I had to do," Duncan said. "But I had to admit I was scared. At no part in the process did I detect that was I was doing had an effect."

Duncan had no idea where the man was being taken, but she was curious to find out how he had fared. After a few calls to local hospitals, she located a charge nurse who was able to help her. She said to Duncan: "I'm very pleased to tell you that the gentleman is in stable condition."

"To hear that he was okay...that was probably one of the most meaningful things I've ever done in my life," Duncan said. "It wasn't that hard. It was scary, it was tiring—I was sore the next day – but because I knew what to do, because it was fresh in my mind, I said 'Okay, I can do this.'"

County departments have varying requirements and opportunities for employees to receive CPR training. In some cases, departments sponsor their own training. Others can send employees to training offered through Human Resources (more information is available in the training catalog on DHR's Intranet site). Duncan definitely recommends the training for any County employee who has the opportunity. It made a difference for her.

"I have the skills and I have the power to do something," Duncan said. "If you're ignorant you can't do anything except sit there and wring your hands. Knowledge is power."



Theresa Duncan greatly appreciates the opportunity to have freshened up her CPR skills.

COUNTY NEWS *Extra*

Service Awards

Congratulations to County employees reaching the following milestones in December:

40 years

Ronald P. King (HHSA)

35 years

Paul L. Swafford (Public Works)

30 years

Jacolene E. Cameron (Superior Court)

Margaret Dulac-Shields (HHSA)

Michael Meza (Assessor)

Craig A. Rustad (Assessor)

Eleanor L. Sanchez (Sheriff)

Paul M. Yezbak (Assessor)

Thomas A. Zoll (Sheriff)

25 years

John J. Castro (HHSA)

John Barry Charnley (Parks & Recreation)

Donna M. Cousins (Superior Court)

Milagros M. Denton (HHSA)

Janice Fitzhugh (Planning & Land Use)

Michael E. Dick (General Services)

Patricia A. Eblen (General Services)

Robin L. Friedman (HHSA)

Linda S. Fulton (Sheriff)

Ricardo A. Jimenez (HHSA)

Diane C. Kaelin (HHSA)

Susan Kamin (HHSA)

Larry W. Knight (Auditor & Controller)

Susan A. Kuehni (HHSA)

Gertrude Lamadrid (Superior Court)

Dorothy Jean Latham (HHSA)

David A. Macias (Superior Court)

Susan E. Martin (District Attorney)

Stephen G. Nystrom (HHSA)

Janet S. Phillips (Sheriff)

Nancy J. Pickett (HHSA)

Bernice G. Pritchett (Assessor)

Roberto E. Salazar (Public Works)

Sheila E. Thursby (HHSA)

20 years

Catherine A. Bilodeau (HHSA)

Larry E. Bodenhamer (Environmental Health)

Isabelita V. Bognot (District Attorney)

Amelia Bossett (Assessor)

Lydia M. Cash-Brooks (Child Support Services)

Rose Marie Cook (HHSA)

Carmen J. Cope (Sheriff)

Catherine Crutchfield (Assessor)

Gwendolyn Freow (HHSA)

Willie Neal (Probation)

Orlando U. Paranada (Sheriff)

Maria Rolon (HHSA)

Malichanh Sassady (HHSA)

Carely Stewart (HHSA)

In Memoriam

Florence Barbee (Assessor, 1988)

10/07

John M. Battisti (Public Works, 1992)

10/24

Gregory Bertrand (Agriculture, 1987)

10/22

Morris D. Campbell (Public Works, 2002)

10/14

Christopher Casserly (Treasure/Tax Collector, 1986)

10/27

Eunice May Fickess (Edgemoor, 1966)

10/24

Lois C. Green (Municipal Court, 1998)

9/08

Josephine M. Hillis (District Attorney, 1981)

10/01

Rose M. Lombardo (Superior Court, 1986)

10/08

Charles McCauley (General Services, 1978)

10/10

Alan J. Newman (Sheriff, 2002)

10/16

Geraldine Palmer (Municipal Court, 2000)

10/01

Tekla Powell (Sheriff, 1970)

10/11

Edna Pruitt (Social Services, 1991)

9/29

Henry Schleibaum (Welfare, 1978)

10/06

Inez Shufflebarger (Treasurer/Tax Collector, 1961)

10/28

Robert J. Stahl, Jr. (Municipal Court, 1974)

10/05

Geraldine Stevens (Superior Court, 1996)

10/21

Dolores J. Wiza (Superior Court, 1997)

9/23

Donald L. Yinger (Unknown, 1977)

10/04

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of active County workers Andrea Hatchett, Superior Court (9/24), Jose C. Rodriguez, HHSA (10/06), Halina Schultz, HHSA (10/16), and Karla I. Triplett, HHSA (10/13).

County News Extra includes expanded information about and for County employees. If you have something you'd like considered for either *County News* or *County News Extra*, please contact the newsletter editor at (619) 595-4632 or e-mail at rene.carmichael@sdcounty.ca.gov. Items can also be faxed to (619) 595-4664 or mailed to MS A-359, Attn: *County News*.

Retirements

The San Diego County Employees Retirement Association reports the following employees recently retired:

Daniel D. Abbott	Edna R. Cruz	Kimaco McIver-Smith	Ellen E. Schiff
Thomas F. Adams, Jr.	Jerry C. Deleon	Michael G. Meza	Mark Schurr
John J. Armendariz	William A. Deucher	Barbara Miller-Jones	James L. Smith
James W. Bailey	Norma J. Durkin	Andrew Monti	Babette V. Tally
Myrna R. Bautista	Elizabeth Evelyn	Carol J. Moore	Robert R. Taylor
Calvin L. Belcher	Carol A. Fowler	Stan A. Mrozowski	Ferris P. Thompson
Mildred L. Bennett	Ernest F. Giraldi	Steven G. O'Connell	Miguel Velez
Donna J. Berner	Abelardo P. Gonzalez	Carolyn O'Patry	Rizalina N. Viray
Cathy Borrelli	Karen F. Gurneck	Alfredo Pareja	Teresita Vito
Jean Buchanan	Manuela D. Hernandez	Donna R. Pienzi	Dorothy P. Washington
Lawrence E. Carolan	Mark A. Hostetter	Angelita A. Portacio	Charlotte Welch
Michael R. Cava	Josefina I. Hulse	Naomi Potes	Hal M. White
Harry R. Chilton	Cathy C. Kim	Kenneth M. Purvis	Elaine S. Woolley
Nancy J. Coburn	Ronald P. King	Mary E. Rademaker	Judith S. Zaizar
Patricia L.C. Cook	Barbara J. Lynch	Cecil M. Ralph	
Jeannine Courtier-Martinez	Rochelle Martin	Marie A. Roberts	
Roselyn Coz	Elorse Williams McClain	Toby K. Roberts	

[Ver•ba•tim] *extra*

Jorge Lopez, Karen Wilkins and **Paul Clifford** (Air Pollution Control District) impressed the Environmental Health Coalition in their response to an air pollution problem affecting the coalition's workplace.

"[Lopez] and [Wilkins] were very knowledgeable about the issue affecting us and were able to help us understand and resolve the problem. [Clifford] was also knowledgeable, as well as

thorough, timely and communicative in his assistance."

Sandra Gutierrez (HHSA, TB Control Clinic) was commended for her prompt action in getting help for a patient who was in respiratory distress.

"Sandra's immediate recognition of the patient's poor respiratory status and her prompt action to call the paramedics was instrumental in ensuring that the patient received the necessary level of medical care and hospitalization she required."

Gustavo Godoy (Parks and Recreation) was thanked by a community group for his timely advice and assistance.

"Without his help we would not have been able to submit our application last year."

Jennifer Young (HHSA, Family Resource Center) was thanked for listening to a client's complaint with empathy and understanding.

"Your kindness was and is greatly appreciated after such an upsetting and unsettling experience."

Dianne Timm (HHSA, Family Resource Center) was praised for pulling off a small miracle in getting a patient's Medical renewed.

"This is a woman who started my day on a positive note and helped me realize that good things can happen when you least expect it."

SECURITY REMINDER

For employees who work at the County Administration Center, or who are just stopping by, you must display your County badge to be waived through security. If you don't have your badge, you'll be asked to go through the security screening process.

Extra NewsBriefs!

EMS Gets the Gold

Emergency Medical Services staff took first place at the "2002 EMS Games" in October, an annual competition for local paramedics, emergency medical technicians, firefighters and others in the EMS field. The County's team swept three of the four events, including over the line, volleyball, and the double handed kayak relay. Participants included Steve Wood, Emily Miller, Allen Smith, Max Carreon, Nathan Rubin, Laura Chavez, Gary Vilke, and Patrick Buttron. This is reportedly the first time the County has won the overall games.



County Emergency Medical Services staff ready for the EMS games.

Foster Home Recruitment Extends to Faith Community

Just because a child needs to be taken out of his or her home, the child doesn't have to be taken out of his or her community. That's the premise behind Family-to-Family program developed by the Health and Human Services Agency.

But the County isn't going it alone to make this program a success. The South Region of HHSA recently organized a get-together of leaders of the faith community to recruit them to help find foster families in the areas with the greatest number of foster children.

If children can't be placed with a relative, matching them with a foster home in the same community is the next best thing, causing the least disruption in their lives by allowing them to hopefully remain near their friends and stay in the same school.

Organizers of the event deemed it an early success. In just a week, the South Region received 16 foster family inquiries that were a result of the outreach.



Showdown at the Courthouse

The Interstate and Production Support Divisions of Child Support Services held their annual Halloween costume contest at the courthouse. Legal Support Supervisor Theresa Macias was the master of ceremonies and Director Tom Boardman was the contest judge. Around 40 staff members competed to win, place or show for scariest, most original and funniest costumes.

DCSS Director Tom Boardman (center) was judge and jury at the DCSS annual Halloween costume contest at the courthouse.

Extra NewsBriefs!

County Reaches Recording Milestone

Real property records, including deeds, mortgages and other liens are recorded by the County Recorder to establish a public record of real estate transactions. On Nov. 7, for the first time ever, the County recorded its one-millionth document in a calendar year.

Since the County was formed in 1850, each year the Recorder's office records documents starting off with the number "1" at the beginning of the year. Until 1971, the office had never recorded over 300,000 documents in a year. A little over 30 years later, it officially hit the one million mark for the first time.

The increase in documents recorded is the result of the low interest rates and increased purchases and refinancing. With the average length of these documents at 5.5 pages, the County Recorder's office expects it will record up to 7 million pages by the end of the calendar year.

Assessor/Recorder/Clerk Greg Smith (left) and staff celebrate reaching the seven-digit milestone.



North Inland Mental Health Clinic staff

Mental Health Clinic Goes Pink for a Good Cause

County employees at North Inland Mental Health Clinic in Escondido armed themselves with pink ribbons and their favorite jeans to band together in the fight against breast cancer for Lee National Denim Day in October. Employees wore denim to work in exchange for a minimum \$5 donation to the Susan G. Komen Foundation, where 100 percent of the money goes toward funding research, education, screening and treatment projects.

The staff of 25, with the help of two other county employees and two outside donors, raised \$1,025.

Cindy Campos, a Marriage and Family Therapist, has organized the event at the North County Mental Health Clinic for the past five years. This year, she celebrates five years of being cancer free after being in treatment for two separate breast cancer diagnoses.

"This was a wonderful event at our clinic that really shows the support and commitment of our staff to make a difference in the fight against breast cancer," said Campos.

The clinic hosted a day of activities including potlucks, T-shirt sales, and the display of the teddy bear named "Susan Bear" who wore the names of employees' loved ones who have battled breast cancer. Prizes were also awarded to staff for best use of pink in food, best use of pink and blue in attire, and highest clinic contributor.

In the Holiday Spirit!

Other Good Deeds Done by County Departments: *(Continued from County News pages 1 and 3)*

There's a holiday challenge in Probation's South Bay office. Probation officers in the adult division took on their counterparts in the juvenile division to see who could collect the most food for the San Diego Food Bank. In December, the focus will switch to toys. These drives are organized by Supervisory Probation Officer Heidi Barajas, who recently transferred to that office. For the past five years, Barajas has organized a November food and December toy drive for her coworkers. This 17-year County employee said that it was "just one of those things" she felt she needed to do. "It's something nice we can do for the community," Barajas said. "We all have so much."

* * *

Parks and Recreation staff will be showing their support of the youth programs at the County operated Teen Centers in



Lakeside and Spring Valley. Youth will be putting together eight holiday packages for underprivileged families in their area as part of the annual "Ring and Run Holiday." The program name comes from the fact that the youth surprise the family by putting a tree, lights and ornaments, provisions for a holiday meal and gifts for the children on their front door step, ring the bell and run. Parks and Recreation staff donate food, ornaments and cash to purchase whatever items the youth don't collect on their own.

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Probation employees are aiding their own Volunteers in Probation, Inc., a nonprofit that supports probationers and their families with basic living needs, by participating in the annual Christmas Food Basket and Gift program. This year, families in need are identified by

their probation officers, and their wish lists are hung on "Angel Trees" at various Probation sites. Donations from Probation employees will be collected, then dressed in holiday finery at a wrapping party held by the VIP, Inc. board of directors, and readied for distribution on Dec. 21.

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Employees with the Finance and General Government Group are continuing a holiday tradition they started last year. On a last minute whim, Chief Financial Officer Bill Kelly organized a collection by FGGG employees to raise money to make the holidays brighter for foster youth at the San Pasqual Academy. Working under short notice, staffers raised about \$3,000, which was converted into shopping mall gift certificates. This year, the group's goal is to raise \$5,000 to help out the approximately 100 foster youth who call the academy home.

